

1 CLAIMS

2 1. A self-contained electronic pressure monitoring and shutdown device  
3 comprising:

4 a switch-gauge with adjustable high and low pressure electrical contacts to  
5 switch an electrical signal corresponding to the respective high and low  
6 pressure alarm condition;

7 a pulse driven solenoid valve;

8 a high pressure indicator lamp;

9 a low pressure indicator lamp;

10 a low battery indicator lamp;

11 a system OK indicator lamp;

12 a "Test" manually activated electrical contact;

13 a "Reset" manually activated electrical contact;

14 a battery powered power module that supplies two separate voltages for  
15 providing independent power sources to the electronic logic circuit and the  
16 solenoid valve driver circuits;

17 an electronic logic circuit electrically coupled to the switch-gauge, pulse driven  
18 solenoid valve, indicator lamps and manually activated electrical contacts  
19 wherein the electronic logic circuit provides the following logic functions:

20 generates one or more consecutive shutdown pulses to trip the solenoid  
21 valve and flashes the high pressure alarm lamp when a high pressure  
22 condition is detected by the switch-gauge and confirmed by re-reading  
23 the alarm signal for about one second;

24 generates one or more consecutive shutdown pulses to trip the solenoid  
25 valve and flashes the low pressure alarm lamp when a low pressure  
26 condition is detected by the switch-gauge and confirmed by re-reading  
27 the alarm signal for about one second;

28 latches the last cause of shutdown and maintains the corresponding  
29 alarm lamp flashing even if the cause for the shutdown is no longer  
30 present or a different alarm is detected after the shutdown;

31 when the "Reset" manually activated electrical contact is actuated by the  
32 operator it stops flashing the alarm lamps, generates one or more pulses  
33 to open the solenoid valve and ignores existing high and low pressure  
34 alarms for a preprogrammed number of minutes to allow the process to  
35 reach normal pressure;

36 flashes the system OK lamp every one or two seconds when no alarms  
37 have been detected since the last "Reset";

38 periodically reads the voltages supplied by the power module to confirm  
39 power supply is providing proper voltage;

40 flashes the low battery voltage lamp when one of the voltages from the  
41 power module falls below pre-programmed normal but not low enough to  
42 compromise reliable operation.

43 generates one or more consecutive shutdown pulses to trip the solenoid  
44 valve and flashes the low battery voltage alarm lamp when one of the  
45 voltages from the power module falls below a preprogrammed "low-low"  
46 voltage;

47 maintains memory of the last cause of shutdown after the system has  
48 been reset;

49 when the "Test" manually activated electrical contact is actuated by the  
50 operator it flashes the lamp corresponding to the last cause of shutdown

51 for a few seconds and then flashes each alarm lamp to confirm they are  
52 in good working order.

53 2. The self-contained electronic pressure monitoring and shutdown device of  
54 claim 1 wherein the high voltage provided by the power module is connected in  
55 parallel with a capacitor of at least 1,000 uF for boosting pulse current capacity.

56 3. The self-contained electronic pressure monitoring and shutdown device of  
57 ~~claims 1 and 2~~ wherein the electronic logic circuit has the means to be  
58 configured in such a way that it will delay the alarm and shutdown on the high  
59 and/or low pressure alarms for a preprogrammed number of seconds to prevent  
60 shutting down the process if the alarm is only temporary.

61 4. A self-contained electronic pressure monitoring and shutdown device  
62 comprising:

63 a switch-gauge with adjustable high and low pressure electrical contacts to  
64 switch an electrical signal corresponding to the respective high and low  
65 pressure alarm condition;

66 a pulse driven solenoid valve;

67 a high pressure indicator lamp;

68 a low pressure indicator lamp;

69 a low battery indicator lamp;

70 a system OK indicator lamp;

71 a "Test" manually activated electrical contact;

72 a "Reset" manually activated electrical contact;

73 a solar powered power module that stores energy in capacitors, sized to store  
74 enough energy to keep the device in operation throughout the night or longer;

75 an electronic logic circuit electrically coupled to the switch-gauge, pulse driven  
76 solenoid valve, indicator lamps and manually activated electrical contacts  
77 wherein the electronic logic circuit provides the following logic functions:

78 generates one or more consecutive shutdown pulses to trip the solenoid  
79 valve and flashes the high pressure alarm lamp when a high pressure  
80 condition is detected by the switch-gauge and confirmed by re-reading  
81 the alarm signal for about one second;

82 generates one or more consecutive shutdown pulses to trip the solenoid  
83 valve and flashes the low pressure alarm lamp when a low pressure  
84 condition is detected by the switch-gauge and confirmed by re-reading  
85 the alarm signal for about one second;

86 latches the last cause of shutdown and maintains the corresponding  
87 alarm lamp flashing even if the cause for the shutdown is no longer  
88 present or a different alarm is detected after the shutdown;

89 when the "Reset" manually activated electrical contact is actuated by the  
90 operator it stops flashing the alarm lamps, generates one or more pulses  
91 to open the solenoid valve and ignores existing high and low pressure  
92 alarms for a preprogrammed number of minutes to allow the process to  
93 reach normal pressure;

94 flashes the system OK lamp every one or two seconds when no alarms  
95 have been detected since the last "Reset";

96 periodically reads the voltages of the main capacitors of the power  
97 module and controls an output signal to activate a switcher voltage  
98 regulator that transfers energy from a high voltage storage capacitor to a  
99 low voltage capacitor so the low voltage is kept within a range that  
100 insures the reliable operation of the electronic logic module;

101 generates one or more consecutive shutdown pulses to trip the solenoid  
102 valve when any of the main capacitors reaches below a preprogrammed  
103 "low-low" voltage;  
  
104 maintains memory of the last cause of shutdown after the system has  
105 been reset;  
  
106 when the "Test" manually activated electrical contact is actuated by the  
107 operator, it flashes the lamp corresponding to the last cause of shutdown  
108 for a few seconds and then flashes each alarm lamp to confirm they are  
109 in good working order.  
  
110 5. The self-contained electronic pressure monitoring and shutdown device of claim  
111 4 wherein the electronic logic circuit has the means to be configured in such a  
112 way that it will delay the alarm and shutdown on the high and/or low pressure  
113 alarms for a preprogrammed number of seconds to prevent shutting down the  
114 process if the alarm is only temporary.